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from that of Europe as the east is from the west. It is not enough to give the series of events in the unfortunate experience of Miranda after his return from Europe. These explain nothing, and throw no important light on his successes or failures. We need to know his relation to the semi-savages who made up the mass of Venezuela's inhabitants; why he failed and Bolivar succeeded, when both had to do with the same unpromising popular elements. In a history of Miranda's diplomatic activity, these considerations might, perhaps, be omitted; but the history of a man who aspired to be a leader of his people ought to make clear wherein his leadership was wanting. The men of Venezuela in the days of Miranda were not different from those who, under Bolivar, left an imperishable record of daring and devotion to their leader.

Of Miranda as the advocate of South-American independence our author gives us an account which makes a strong impression on the mind; but there remains an opportunity and a need for further investigations into the career of Miranda in South America.

BERNARD MOSES.

*Historia Constitucional de Venezuela.* Por JOSÉ GIL FORTOUL. Tomo Primero. *La Colonia—La Independencia—La Gran Colombia.* Tomo Segundo. *La Oligarquía Conservadora—La Oligarquía Liberal.* (Berlin: Carl Heymann. 1907, 1909. Pp. xi, 570; xii, 558.)

AFTER publishing almost annually for ten years volumes of literature and philosophy, Dr. Fortoul brought out in 1896 an interesting work entitled *El Hombre y la Historia*. This was followed by a decade of silence and apparent inactivity. As a matter of fact, his attention having most fortunately been directed to the field of history, he was devoting himself with rare assiduity to the preparation of a history of the Venezuelan republic which should be at once modern, comprehensive, and scholarly. His plan calls for five volumes, commencing with a comparatively brief introduction covering the colonial period and ending with the administration of President Castro.

The two solid volumes which have appeared, bringing the narrative down to 1863, are characterized by qualities so unusual in the works of South American historians that they deserve special recognition and great praise. To find a Latin-American author writing the history of his country in a modest and dignified fashion, basing his results on extensive researches instead of vivid imagination, is not an every-day occurrence. But when the author turns out to be a Venezuelan *littérateur* and his work bears the marks of critical scholarship, the wonder is tenfold greater. The truth is, it has not been customary for us to think that any good thing could come out of the stricken land of Cipriano Castro. Travellers have frequently felt that it would have been far better for that land of magnificent fertile plains, whose agricultural and

pastoral possibilities are almost untouched, if Bolivar had not been able to overthrow Spain's dominion in northern South America. As this is the centennial year when celebrations of the Beginnings of Independence are being held all over Spanish America, it is peculiarly appropriate that we should at last have an opportunity of paying our respects to a really notable historian, the most deserving of distinction that Venezuela has produced. Indeed, no South American, outside of Chile, has given such good evidence of the possession of a well-trained, scholarly mind. Long residence in Berlin in an official capacity has given Dr. Fortoul an acquaintance with German scientific methods of which he has not been slow to take advantage. His work bears throughout the more desirable earmarks of German scholarship. The fact that he has succeeded in avoiding the kindred quality of being "dry-as-dust" may be due to an avowed fondness for fox-hunting, or it may merely be the result of an inherent racial tendency towards the picturesque. Whatever its cause, Dr. Fortoul has given us a most interesting and satisfactory account of the development of Venezuela as a state.

So far as one can judge, there has been extended and critical use of the sources. It is, however, a matter for regret that there is not more indication in the foot-notes of the author's authorities. It is to be hoped that the final volume will contain a full list of the books and papers which have been used. Otherwise, Dr. Fortoul's hope that his work will serve as "*una guía imparcial para el más exacto estudio de la evolución venezolana*" (I. xi) will not be so fully realized.

His introductory exposition of colonial history is as satisfactory as could be expected under the circumstances. He has made no pretense at digesting the enormous mass of manuscripts in the Archives of the Indies in Seville. They still await the specialist.

The story of the conflict with Spain, leading up to the acquisition of independence, occupies two hundred pages and shows an ability to consider this romantic epoch with a candor that is unusual in the annals of Spanish-American history. Hitherto, the history of the era of independence has frequently been marred by distinct partizan bias. And, furthermore, it has been written almost entirely from the military point of view. Although Dr. Fortoul does not deny the importance of military history and shows a good grasp of its essentials, he has not allowed himself to go into unnecessary details in his descriptions of the campaigns of Bolivar, Paez, and the other revolutionary heroes. While not neglecting the fortunes of war, he has performed the less dramatic but really more important task of following the course of Venezuelan society during and after the war. He has also given a clear exposition of the slow development of legislation and of the intellectual and economic aspects of the period. His judgments of men are remarkably fair and unprejudiced; possibly another result of his long absence from the country and his freedom from the unfortunate political disputes whose bitterness and acrimony have left their mark on so many native writers.

As an example of Dr. Fortoul's fair-mindedness, it is a pleasure to call attention to his efforts to rectify the injustice which former Venezuelan historians, notably Baralt and Larrazábal, have done to General Santander, that most distinguished Colombian soldier and statesman. It is worthy of note that a writer, who is no traducer of Bolivar's fame, should be able to call Santander: "Estadista eminente, correcto administrador, y patriota en toda ocasión" (I. 442).

In the third part of the first volume, under the title "La Gran Colombia", Dr. Fortoul has followed the course of Bolivar's famous confederation down to its dissolution and the death of its founder.

Throughout his work he lays great stress on legislation and the importance of a careful examination of the fundamental laws of the land. He believes that in them can be found the true tendency of each epoch, even when the laws were made only to be broken! The danger in this position he recognizes and has in a measure eliminated by taking pains to give a careful picture of the contemporary state of society and a faithful chronicle of events.

The second volume covers that most confused and confusing period from 1830 to 1863. Fortunately, about one-fifth of the volume is given over to a lucid exposition of Venezuelan foreign relations, a task for which Dr. Fortoul's diplomatic career has eminently fitted him.

In analyzing the various claims which were made by foreign nations against Venezuela before 1863, Dr. Fortoul has done the student of diplomatic history an important service. At the same time the author evidently feels keenly the fact that the European powers and the United States applied one kind of international law to their mutual relations and another, a "mezcla de doctrinas de equidad y procedimientos brutales" (II. 105), in their dealings with the Spanish-American republics. Nevertheless his attitude toward the errors of his own country and the actual status of "Liberty" is expressed without fear or favor. He rightly discerns that the Venezuelan oligarchy, preoccupied "con puras cuestiones de doctrinarismo político", disdained the more important work of "corrigiendo sus hereditarios defectos españoles y curando sus vicios crónicos" (II. 254-255).

No library which pretends to do more than supply South Americana in English and no student of Latin-American history and politics can afford to be without Dr. Fortoul's excellent work.

HIRAM BINGHAM.

#### MINOR NOTICES

*Transactions of the Royal Historical Society.* Third Series, Volume III. (London, The Society, 1909, pp. vii, 306). In recent volumes of these *Transactions* some valuable contributions have been made to chapters in the history of international relations of European powers bearing upon questions of American trade and diplomacy. In an important paper of this class in the present volume, Mr. H. W. V. Tem-